
Promising Practice Fact Sheet – Child-Only TANF/Kinship Care GrandFamily Resource Centers – South Carolina

Program

Description: The program was created in 2008 by the South Carolina State Library in partnership with public libraries in South Carolina to provide a resource center for grandparents. Trained library staff oversee the centers, provide locations for support groups and facilitate a minimum of three support group meetings.

Target Population: Focuses on grandparents but it can also benefit other relative caregivers.

Goal: To create one location in a community to house resources for grandparents.

Caseload Data: Not available

Cost: Funding for this program comes from the national Institute of Museum and Library Systems (IMLS) pursuant to the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). It is administered by the state library in South Carolina. The state library spends approximately \$ 36,918.75 per year to operate this program: 5 libraries receive approximately \$ 3,076.56 each per grant cycle (\$1,500 cash award plus supplies and program support). Libraries can also receive private grants and have collaborated on separate LSTA grants to expand services.

Evidence: Descriptive data only.

Eligibility:

A public library must:

- Complete a grant application;
- Use grant money to purchase specified items for the resource center;
- Appoint a library staffperson to oversee the project and serve as contact for the grant;
- Conduct a program evaluation; and
- Submit a brief report by the end of the grant (Oct. 30, 2010 for the current grant cycle)

If more than five qualifying applications are received then it is awarded in the order received.

Services Overview:

- Permanent resources at each center including program materials, read-aloud books for young children, and books about parenting and grandparenting.
- Each center must have a “grandparents’ chair”, signage, display cases/selves for program materials, and promotional material for group meetings.
- A project manager from the library receives training from the state library to start support groups and facilitate group meetings.
- All other library services and programs regularly offered to patrons.

Findings:

- The program reports grandparents are raising 9% of all children in South Carolina and this program has a positive impact on this group.

- The program also reports it has received local and national media attention for its services, garnered grant support and partnerships, and receives numerous requests for information about building library partnerships to serve grandparents.

Implications for Policymakers and Program Developers to Consider:

- This is a creative way to leverage library system resources to meet kinship caregiver needs.

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